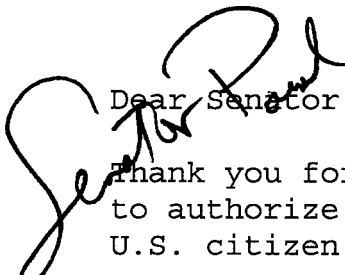


THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 5, 2013

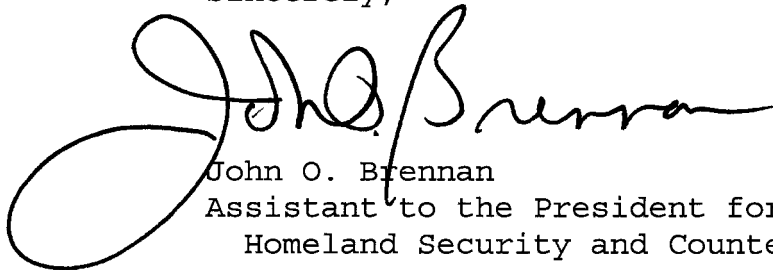
Dear Senator Paul:

Thank you for your February 20, 2013, letter regarding the power to authorize lethal force, such as a drone strike, against a U.S. citizen on U.S. soil, and without trial.

The Department of Justice will address your legal question regarding the President's authorities under separate cover. I can, however, state unequivocally that the agency I have been nominated to lead, the CIA, does not conduct lethal operations inside the United States - nor does it have any authority to do so. Thus, if I am fortunate enough to be confirmed as CIA Director, I would have no "power" to authorize such operations.

In addition, I have asked the CIA to respond to your letters of January 25 and February 12, 2013, which raise a number of important questions regarding issues pertaining to the advancement of America's strategic priorities around the globe.

Sincerely,



John O. Brennan
Assistant to the President for
Homeland Security and Counterterrorism

The Honorable Rand Paul
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-1704